

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 are pending in this application. Applicants appreciate the Office Action's indication that claims 2-5 and 9-12 contain allowable subject matter.

By this Amendment, claims 1-3, 5 and 7 are amended for better clarity, and not for substantial reasons related to patentability.

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 6-8 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent Application Publication 2004/0246697 to Yamashita et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Office Action asserts that Yamashita discloses all elements recited in claims 1, 6-8 and 13. Applicants respectfully submit that Yamashita does not disclose a plurality of mechanisms which are each formed so as to be oriented in a direction perpendicular to the light entrance surface and to be continuously arrayed along the light entrance surface, as recited in claim 1.

Yamashita discloses an apparatus having a light guide 4 with a light emitting face 43. See Fig. 1A and paragraph 51. The light emitting face 43 has a number of elongated prisms 43a, each being extended in a direction parallel to the light incident end face 41 (see Fig. 1A and paragraphs [0053] and [0055]) or at an angle of 20 degree or less with respect to the light incident end face 41 (see paragraph [0056]). Yamashita does not disclose that the prisms 43a extend in a direction perpendicular to the light incident end face 41. Thus, Yamashita does not disclose a plurality of mechanisms which are each formed so as to be oriented in a direction perpendicular to the light entrance surface and to be continuously arrayed along the light entrance surface, as recited in claim 1.

In addition, Applicants respectfully submit that Yamashita does not disclose an optical path conversion means comprising a plurality of paired slanting surfaces which are formed so as to be oriented in the direction parallel to the light entrance surface, as recited in claim 1.

Yamashita discloses a directive light emitting structure formed on a back surface 44. See Fig. 1A and paragraph [0054]. The directive light emitting structure includes a number of elongated prisms 44a each extending in a direction perpendicular to the light incident end face 41. See Fig. 1A and paragraph [0059]. Yamashita does not disclose that the elongated prisms 44a extend in a direction parallel to the light incident end face 41. Therefore, Yamashita does not disclose an optical path conversion means comprising a plurality of paired slanting surfaces which are formed so as to be oriented in a direction parallel to the light entrance surface, as recited in claim 1.

For any of the above reasons, Yamashita does not disclose each and every element recited in claim 1. Thus, Yamashita does not disclose the subject matter recited in claim 1.

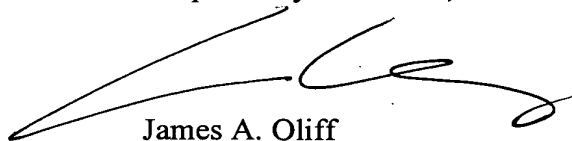
Applicants respectfully submit that claims 6-8 and 13 are each patentable at least in view of the patentability of claim 1, from which they depend, as well as for additional features they recite. For example, Yamashita merely discloses a rough surface (mat surface) formed as a directive light emitting structure on the light emitting face 43. See Fig. 1B and paragraph [0059]. Yamashita does not disclose that the surface of the light emitting face 43 is roughened with a plurality of grooves. Thus, Yamashita does not disclose that the mechanisms of the light scattering means having their surfaces roughened with a plurality of grooves each formed so as to be oriented in the direction perpendicular to the light entrance surface, as recited in claim 6.

In view of the above, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 6-8 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-13 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: April 11, 2005

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